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Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by Agence pour les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 January 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Situation of Human Rights in Yemen*

The use of force in all its forms is prohibited by international law, and in fact the principle of the prohibition of the use of force is a rule of thumb, which obliges governments to avoid violence and use of military force as the main symbol of resorting to force against other states or countries.

Since March 26, 2015, an Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia has attacked and thrown blood into the country of Yemen under the pretext of returning the power to the Yemeni president. According to reports from internal sources in Yemen, the targeting of civilians by Saudi-led coalition aircraft is one of the most important events, which has recently been a source of concern for human rights activists. In the following, some of the news coming from Yemeni internal sources are reported along with crimes committed recently:

On December 25, 2017, Saudi-led coalition fighters targeted a tax administration in the city of Dhamar, in which a number of civilians were killed or wounded.

On December 26, 2017, Saudi-led coalition fighters targeted a civilian vehicle on the main road of al-Hadida, killing and wounding a large number of citizens, including women and children.

Also, in December 2017, in Sana'a, Saudi-led coalition fighters deliberately targeted civilian vehicles on the main road of Asiran Street and the Egyptian monument surrounded by houses, resulting in many civilian casualties, including women and children.

At the same time about 50 people were killed and wounded in a brutal airstrike by Saudi-led coalition forces targeting Al-Shahra market in the city of Taiz, where many people were missing under the rubble.

Over the past two months, continuous air strikes have been reported in Sana'a, Sa'adah, Dhamar, Taiz, and Hadidah, resulting in a large number of civilian casualties, including women and children.

The waiver of this serious violation of international humanitarian law by Arab coalition, which does not avoid the targeting of neighborhoods and citizens' homes as well as civilian places without punishment, is by itself a great crime, and the weakening of human rights in Yemen overlooks human rights of all citizens across the world.

In the meantime, the Saudi invasion, under the aegis of the International Court of Justice regarding prohibition of resorting to force, has been an illegitimate invasion and violation of the sovereignty of the independent country of Yemen, and it is in fact, a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

There is no longer any need to talk about the humanitarian crises in Yemen, including poverty, hunger, illnesses, and child mortality, since the international community is aware and accordingly, a lot of news has been published in this regard. Several concerns have been expressed in several months by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the United Nations; however, there are concerns that no positive measures have been taken for the Yemeni people. Moreover, despite the European Parliament's approval concerning the prohibition on stopping arms sales to Saudi Arabia, unfortunately, European companies have continued to sell weapons and, therefore, have left Saudi Arabia free to continue the attacks and killings of innocent people.

The Human Rights Agency, on behalf of a number of human rights organizations, as well as human rights activists who have been closely associated with the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, condemn the brutal attacks by Saudi-led coalition aircraft into civilian homes and civilian sites strongly and calls on the Human Rights Council to take more serious mechanisms to save the Yemeni people.

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*Justice sans Frontière, Middle East Foundation for Development and Human Rights, Voices Organization free free media, Supporters of Rights and Freedoms Organization, Transparency of the Foundation for Human Rights, Development Studies International Development Group, Organization Damon, Hamdani Foundation for Studies and Research, Lawyers Without Borders, Phoenix organization development, Imaniat Foundation for

Women and Children National Media Center Economic Organization Shams justice of Rights and Freedoms Yemen of Rights and Freedoms Be for Culture and Creativity Foundation youthful spirit of human and social development Yemeni Center for Civil Rights See youth organization Foundation for Development and Human Rights, NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.